

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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TO KENTISH CORRESPONDENTS.

A copy of the Maidstone Gazette has come by post to-day ; but, owing to there being *writing* on some part of the Gazette, *postage* was charged, and the Gazette was, of course, not received. The mortification was not small ; for, I very much wished to see what way the Editor would go to work in endeavouring to palliate the disgrace of having first inserted a paragraph reflecting on a townsman, and then having refused to insert the answer of the party attacked, *lest such answer should give offence to the Dragoon Officers, quartered in the Barracks.*

BATTLE OF FROME.

TO

MR. R. B. THORNHILL,
CAPT. AND ADJ. NORTH SOM. YEOMANRY
CAVALRY.

Botley, July 20, 1816.

SIR,

As I am always prepared to meet with, so I am always ready to excuse, a fair portion of conceit and pertness, in a person in a situation like yours. Vanity, assurance, rudeness bordering on insolence, are the natural fruit of authority placed in vulgar hands, and seem, from time immemorial, to have formed a sort of privilege of that description of persons who are denominated *Jacks in Office*, which, as you have, doubtless, learnt, is a title of much greater antiquity than

that of the Knights of the Bath, or even of the Garter. But, Sir, though I am ready to extend my indulgence thus far, I cannot wholly overlook, even in a Captain and Adjutant of Yeomanry Cavalry, *wilful misrepresentation*, proceeding, as it appears to me, *from the meanest of motives*, and conducted in the *foulest of modes*.

You will, at once, perceive, that I allude to your letter of the 10th instant, *addressed to me*, and published in the COURIER news-paper of the 11th, and republished in the Bath news-paper of the 17th, and which publication in the COURIER was as follows :

“ TO THE EDITOR OF THE COURIER.

“ SIR,—By inserting the underneath in your next Paper, you will oblige your obedient, humble servant,

“ R. B. THORNHILL.

“ Bath, July 10, 1816.

TO MR. WM. COBBETT.

“ SIR,—Having read, with much surprise, a statement in your Register of the 6th inst. in giving an account of the disturbances at Frome, setting forth
“ ‘ That the Yeomanry *were repulsed*,
“ ‘ and that the mob was not induced to
“ ‘ retreat till regular dragoons were
“ ‘ brought in and employed against
“ ‘ them,’ I conceive it a *duty* I owe the Yeomanry, and particularly the Frome squadron of the North Somerset Yeomanry, to *declare YOUR ASSERTION is false and untrue*. The Frome squadron had completely dispersed the mob, and peace and good

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“ order were restored three hours previ-
 “ ous to the regular dragoons coming in,
 “ and who were on their route to Trow-
 “ bridge.

“ I am authorised by the North So-
 “ merset Yeomanry, to state for *your in-*
 “ *formation*, and of *all other persons*,
 “ that they are willing and ready on all
 “ occasions to aid the Civil Power when
 “ called, and *to suppress all unlawful or*
 “ *riotous mobs*, without the assistance of
 “ any regular force, and which they *have*
 “ *proved to be able to do in three different*
 “ *riots*, to the entire *satisfaction and ap-*
 “ *probation of his Majesty's Government*,
 “ the Magistrates who called on them,
 “ and the inhabitants of Frome and its
 “ neighbourhood.

“ I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

“ R. B. THORNHILL,

“ Captain and Adjutant North Somerset
 “ Yeomanry Cavalry.

“ Yeomanry Office, Bath,
 “ 10th July, 1816.”

This is copied from the Courier of *Fri-*
day, the 12th of July, and it has since,
 as I observed before, been republished
 in the Bath and Cheltenham Gazette.
 Thus, Sir, you will have your *swagger*
 for the entire space of nine days, or there-
 abouts; for, I am of opinion, that it will
 come to an end by next Sunday night.

Upon seeing the above letter in the
 Courier, the first question that occurred
 to me was, *why* the letter had not been
 addressed directly to me at Botley, in
 order to give me an opportunity of cor-
 recting the statement and of sending forth
 that correction through the same channel
 which had conveyed the error to the pub-
 lic? This was, assuredly, the most likely
 way to put things speedily to rights.
 But, not only was your letter *not* sent to
 me directly, it was, besides, so contrived,
 in point of *time*, that it should appear be-

fore my Register of last Saturday, and
 yet that I should have no *possible* oppor-
 tunity of *answering it for a week*. In
 the Courier it appeared on the *Thurs-*
day; it could not reach me till the *Fri-*
day; and, therefore, it was *impossible*,
 that it could be noticed in the Register
 of Saturday, unless such notice had been
 immediately sent off to London express,
 which was not to be expected.

Correction of error was, therefore, ma-
 nifestly not the object, and there can be
 very little doubt, that, besides the *ex-offi-*
cio object of gratifying your vanity, you
 were extremely eager to misrepresent, not
 to say calumniate, me, from whom you
 had certainly received no provocation
 whatever. You accuse me of *falsehood*,
 and, in order to make the world believe
 that the charge is true, you deliberately
 and intentionally, make a *false quotation*
 of my words. You say, that my Register
 set forth, “ that the yeomanry *were* re-
 “ pulsed,” &c. whereas I said, “ at Frome,
 “ *it appears*, that the people repulsed the
 “ Yeomanry.” The words, which are
 here distinguished by *Italics*, are very im-
 portant in this case, because your object
 is to fix falsehood *upon me*. In this view,
 you call the statement *mine*; and, in or-
 der to harden your charge, you use the
 word *assertion*; thus: “ I conceive it a
 “ *duty* I owe to the Yeomanry, and par-
 “ ticularly to the Frome Squadron of the
 “ North Somerset Yeomanry, *to declare*
 “ YOUR ASSERTION is *false* and *un-*
 “ *true*.” The reader may, perhaps, stop
 me here by observing, that a person who
 can write thus is unworthy of my notice.
 I am, however, of the taste of Swift:
 “ if a flea or a louse bite me, I will kill
 “ it if I can get hold of it.” Ignorant as
 you appear to be of all the rules of writing,
 you are not blind; you read news-papers;
 this is clear from your writing to the Edi-
 tor of the Courier; and this being the
 case, you *must* have known, that you
 were addressing a *falsehood* to the public

in the form of a solemn declaration. You must have known, that the "*assertion*," as you call it, was *not my* assertion; but, that it had appeared, several days earlier, in that very COURIER news-paper in which you chose to convey your letter, and also in the news-paper, or papers, of *your own City of Bath*, where you reside, where your "*Office*" is held, and whence you date your letter. It was well known to you, that I did not pretend to have been at Frome; that my article, containing the statement, was dated from Botley; that I did not pretend to have any private account of the transaction; that I was giving merely a summary of the accounts already published in other papers; and, that I spoke with this express qualification: "*it appears*," that such and such an event has taken place. All these circumstances were well known to you; and yet you pretend, that a sense of *duty* towards the Yeomanry in general, and towards the Frome Troop in particular, impelled you, urged you, pushed you on, to call the assertion *mine*, and, thereupon, to charge me with *falsehood*. No wonder that you did not send your letter directly to me! No wonder that you wished it to go out through a channel, *which would never contain an answer to it!* Nor is it any wonder, that your vanity should have so far stupified you as to make you hope, that your meanness would never be exposed; or, at least, that the exposure would never reach the eyes, or ears, of those in whose opinions you wished to appear to be a big man.

My article appeared on the 6th of July, in the following words: "At Frome, in Somersetshire, *it appears*, that the people have risen in great numbers; that they repulsed the Yeomanry Cavalry; that they wounded the commanding officer and some of his soldiers; and that they were not induced to retreat, till regular dragoons were brought in and employed against them." Here are four

distinct propositions, or assertions. Not made by me on my knowledge of the facts; but, *related* as the assertions of others. Now, Sir, if I have here stated, in the way of summary, any thing *more* than had *before* been stated, in detail, by the papers of your own city, I will be content to pass for that which I accuse you of being; that is to say, a publisher of wilful falsehoods, a mean perverter of words.

The account of the battle of Frome, of which I gave the summary, was published (as taken from the Bath Papers) in the Courier of the 1st of July, in the following words:—"Yesterday morning (Sunday), between seven and eight o'clock, an express arrived at Bath, from Frome, with the unpleasant intelligence of a riot having taken place in the town on Saturday evening. A number of persons, early in the afternoon, showed symptoms of discontent, at some additional advance in the price of potatoes. Their number increased to *between two and three thousand* before seven o'clock, and they then proceeded to acts of violence. The magistrates, with the utmost promptitude, read the Riot Act, and the Frome Cavalry having assembled to preserve the peace, were immediately assailed with volleys, brick-bats, &c. we lament to say, in this conflict, Col. Wickham received a severe wound in the head, which *caused him to be led from the scene of action; seven or eight of the cavalry have been severely wounded or bruised*, and as many of the horses, one having his eye knocked out. At four o'clock on Sunday morning, a detachment of the Inniskillen dragoons arrived from Bruton, and SHORTLY AFTER, some degree of order was restored. The Bath cavalry have received orders to hold themselves in readiness, and are now assembled opposite the Guildhall. The rioters first proceeded to rescue three men that were

“ taken into custody early in the day,
 “ but were defeated in their purpose.
 “ They next proceeded to the factory of
 “ Messrs. Sheppard, with intent to de-
 “ stroy the same, but, through the prompt
 “ exertions of the magistrates and caval-
 “ ry, all was saved. Great praise is due
 “ to the meritorious exertions of the
 “ Frome Cavalry on this occasion; and
 “ we understand *the whole of the North*
 “ *Somerset Yeomanry are under arms*, to
 “ aid the civil power, as these deluded
 “ men have threatened to repeat their
 “ depredations on Wednesday next.—
 “ (*Bath Paper.*)”

Now, then, does not this account make out *to the full* all the four propositions contained in my article?

I say, 1st, “ That the people have
 “ *risen in great numbers.*” And did not the Bath Paper and the Courier say the same? Did they not inform the public, and me, amongst others, that between *two and three thousand* had risen, and had proceeded to acts of violence?

I say, 2nd, “ That they had *repulsed*
 “ *the Yeomanry Cavalry.*” And did not the Bath Paper and the Courier say the same? What is *repulsing*? Why *keeping back; driving back.* And if the wounding of the Commanding Officer and several of his men and horses; if the causing of the commander to be led from the scene of action; if the keeping up of the fight for more than 12 hours; if the calling in of the Inniskillen dragoons; if sending an express to Bath; if the Bath Cavalry being called out and ready to march: if all these do not amount to a proof of the Yeomanry having been *repulsed*, I should be glad to know what a repulse means according to *your* notion of *repulses*. If this was not a *repulse*, what would it require to constitute a *defeat*? The battle began, we see, at seven o'clock on the Saturday evening; and it did not *cease* till some time on *Sunday*. At four o'clock in the morning of Sunday,

the *Regular Dragoons* arrived; and, it was not till “ *after that*” that *any degree of order was restored!* So here are the cavalry, engaged with the people for *nine hours*; the former lose their commanding officer and several of his men, who are *wounded*; and yet there is no such thing as a *repulse* experienced by the cavalry. Why, then, call in the regular dragoons? Why send an express to Bath? Why call out the Bath Cavalry? Why give them orders to hold themselves in readiness to march? Why put the whole of the North Somerset Yeomanry under arms? In short, if this was not a *repulse*, neither was there a repulse at Baltimore nor at New Orleans.

I say, 3rd, “ That they wounded the
 “ Commanding Officer, and some of his
 “ soldiers.” This you do not pretend to deny.

I say, 4th, “ That the people were *not*
 “ *induced to retreat, 'till regular dragoons*
 “ *were brought in and employed against*
 “ *them.*” And do not the Bath Paper and the Courier say the same? They say, that the battle began on Saturday evening at seven o'clock; that, at four on Sunday morning, a detachment of regular dragoons arrived from Bruton; and that, “ *soon after,*” some degree of order was restored. Is it not clear, then, that the battle was going on 'till four o'clock on the Sunday morning, and that the regular dragoons decided it against the people? The regular dragoons were not, it seems, even ordered to fire; but, what of that? Their *presence* decided the affair. They arrive, and, “ *soon after,*” some degree of order is restored. All was confusion *before* they arrived. It was *they*, therefore, who induced the people to retire and be quiet.

Thus, then, I related nothing as of *my own knowledge*; I professed only to give in summary what I had read in detail; and, I have now proved, I think, that I did, in no respect, surpass the bounds of

my authority. What I did state was, you will say, after all, *not true*. I did not *vouch* for the truth of any part of it. On the contrary, the words, "*it appears*," told the reader, that I did not pretend to vouch for the truth of the statement. It might be your *duty* to contradict the statement; but, why were you not alive to this sense of duty much sooner? Why did you not accuse the Bath Editor and your friend the Courier Editor of *falsehood*? At any rate, you could hardly think it your *duty* to *mis-quote* my words; unless, indeed, regarding me as a person who has not much eulogized the Yeomanry Cavalry, you, as being paid for your services, regard it as a duty you owe to them to misrepresent and calumniate me. To speak my mind, however, I believe your views to be of a higher order; and, if the hostility which you have discovered against me should obtain you a good cut amongst the loaves and fishes, you will not, I assure you, be the first, by dozens, who have succeeded by the same means.

As to the North Somerset Cavalry having *authorized you to tell me*, that they are *willing and ready*, to come forth in arms against *all rioters and mobs*, I authorize you to inform them, that such alacrity is quite worthy of such persons, and that they appear to me to have chosen a very suitable organ for the expression of their feeling. If they really have given you authority to speak thus in their name, assure them, I beg of you, that I have not, and never have had, the smallest doubt either of their disposition, in this respect, or of their ability; and that, though the Bath Paper and the Courier did leave me to fear, that one Squadron of them had been treated somewhat after the manner of Don Quixote and Rozinante, I have not the smallest hesitation in saying, that I look upon them as a match for all the disloyal old women and boys in the county, especially when

these latter have neither food in their bodies nor arms in their hands.

At the same time, Sir, that you deliver this message to your constituents, pray present them with my congratulations on the return of *peace* and of that safety and all those other benefits, which they have so long been expecting to result from the war, of which they were amongst the most zealous and active supporters. Tell them from me, Sir, that I most sincerely believe, that they have largely contributed towards the restoration of the Bourbons, the Pope, and the Inquisition, and towards the reinstatement of those malignant Priests, who are now setting the Catholics to cut the throats of the Protestants in France. Tell them, that I am astonished to hear of their railing against *tythes*, when they have so long been drinking away their money in bumpers to "Church and King;" and that I do, at any rate, confidently expect, that they will have too much loyalty to grumble, next year, when the Income Tax will, in all probability, be re-imposed, in order to enable "his Majesty's Government," to support the honour and dignity of the state. Tell them, I beseech you, that it does seem a little odd, that there should appear *any reason* for there being large bodies of armed men in all the counties after the Jacobins have all been annihilated; but, tell them that I have not the smallest *suspicion* that their military ardour is heightened by an exemption from the horse-tax. Lastly, Sir, I hope you will not forget to tell them, that I hope they will most cheerfully continue to pay all the taxes demanded of them, for that the best possible proof of attachment to the government is to give money freely in support of it. No *grumbling*, therefore, I beg. "So, no more at present," tell them, except that, before they authorize you again to vaunt about the deeds that they are able to perform, I would advise them to recollect the fate of *Captain*

Bobadil, whose ribs had to answer for the follies of his tongue.

WM. COBBETT.

P.S. I have just received what, I dare say, is a true account of the affair at Frome. It is a letter, written from the spot, and signed with the real name of the writer. I give it you in my correspondent's own words, as below.—The contents of this letter convince me, that you have *not been* AUTHORIZED by the Yeomanry Cavalry of the North of Somersetshire to convey such an impertinent message to me. The above message, in return, is sent, therefore, only to those persons (if any), who really have given you such authority.

Frome, Wednesday, July 17th, 1816.

SIR,

Having seen in our Bath papers, a Letter from a Capt. THORNHILL, said to have been addressed to you, relative to the accounts given in your Register of the riots at Frome, and also having heard various reports of this matter, I have driven over here, this morning, with a Friend for the purpose of investigating the matter. I find that the public have been led into some error from the accounts given in the news-papers, which appeared long before it was noticed in your Register. The true state of the case is this: Some person in the Market having demanded 1s. 5d. per peck for old potatoes, which was a rise of 5d. since the preceding Market day, the persons who came to purchase were dissatisfied, and, during the altercation, one idle young man pushed another over the market-woman's basket and overturned it. These young men were immediately seized by a constable. They were taken without opposition to the *Guard House*. The news of this soon spread about; a

great concourse of people assembled, and demanded that the men should be discharged out of custody. The Reverend Henry Sainsbury, a Magistrate of Beckington, now arrived, and, the people still demanding the liberation of the young men, he read the Riot Act and called out the Cavalry. Things now began to wear a serious aspect. The Cavalry were assaulted with stones and brick-bats, and many of them, to the amount of 17, were wounded, among which number was the Commanding Officer, who got a very severe wound in the face. I have just seen him, and he has now a large black patch over the wound, the mark of which he will carry with him to the grave. At about ten o'clock at night, when the tumult was at its height, Mr. *Champness* of Orchardleigh, another of the Magistrates, arrived, and, as I am informed, demanded of some of the people what they wanted. They returned for answer, "the liberation of the young men who are in custody." Mr. Champness then had them brought to him, and finding no one to prefer any serious charge against them, they were *liberated*. The whole of the people immediately dispersed, and the town became as quiet as it is at this moment. Thus much for the truth of Captain Thornhill's boasting statement that "*the Frome squadron had* " COMPLETELY dispersed the mob and restored peace and good order." To the Cavalry every praise is due for their temper and moderation upon this occasion. But by the judicious conduct of Mr. *Champness* alone (whose name seems *purposely kept out of sight*) was the peace and tranquility of this town restored.

I am, Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN.

P. S. This Captain and Adjutant did not arrive in town till *Sunday*, when all was peace and quietness.



COLLECTION

Of Extracts from the Courier News-paper, relative to the Riots and the employment of the Standing Army against Rioters, in England, with the Date of publication prefixed to each Extract.

(Continued from folio 64.)

Notwithstanding that substantially this kingdom is the most opulent and the most powerful of any that do or ever did exist, there is still *a considerable*, though not an *unaccountable stagnation*. We use the word stagnation, because it seems to us that by far the greatest portion of the evil is brought upon us by the stoppage of the general tide of commerce, in consequence of the change from a war to a peace-price of all commodities. While the price of any article is not only uncertain, but likely to be lower, it is sufficiently obvious that no trader will buy more than he actually wants. No man will consume more than he wants; and thus it must necessarily happen, that the stocks of goods held by middle men, by all those who interpose between the manufacturer and the consumer, must be disposed of, and that too at a slower rate than usual, before the continually increasing stocks of the manufacturer are touched. He becomes burdened with his goods—is compelled to lower his price, and to abridge his work—the labouring hand is discharged; and this state of things continues increasing all the burdens of life, until by these processes the utmost competition having been excited, the scale and prices have settled to the lowest, and until necessity shall again have originated a brisker demand. Such we consider to be the most prominent cause of the present distresses; and when we observe how much the circulation must be diminished by taking out of the market so extensive a class of dealers as those whose trade may be fairly said to be speculation, it is not

so wonderful as it appears. It is indeed astonishing how few of the articles of luxury or necessity are brought at once into the hands of the consumer. The merchant of modern date is very like a man, whose dealings are guided rather by his opinions than by a devotion of his capital and his talents to a particular object, or a particular branch of business. The question that he asks himself is, will a commodity be dearer? No matter whether it be muslin, tallow, or indigo—No matter whether it be the produce of the East, of the West, or of the North. He buys upon the hope of “a quick return and a small profit:” and however the great or the few may consider his to be a desirable course of commerce, we know that by far the most numerous body of traders, especially in the metropolis, are of this adventurous description. Nor is such a method of business confined to indirect procedures. Houses, whose object is defined and limited to a particular department, are speculators in that department; and a man buys to-day, in order to sell to-morrow at a small advance to a second, who perhaps stands in the same ostensible relation to the consumer as himself. At a time like the present, then, all their middle transfers are stopped, absolutely stopped, and the quantity of circulation, not only of money, but of business and employment, which thus disappears from the general mass, is *incalculable*.—We will not venture to assert, though we doubt whether we might not safely do so, that it amounts to more than a quarter of the whole first cost of every article upon which artisans are engaged. If so, then we can account at once for a loss of twenty-five per cent. of the whole trade (not of the production) of the kingdom; and if to this be added the amount of the effects of a similar consideration operating upon our foreign transactions, it will not be necessary to resort, as some do, to the total ruin of our

commerce by foreign competition, for a solution of *the present embarrassing circumstances* of the mercantile and manufacturing world.

Incendiaries.—Last Sunday afternoon the village of Bere in Dorsetshire, and the neighbouring country, were thrown into a state of great alarm by several fires breaking out in the village at the same time, and no doubt was entertained but they were intentionally caused by some incendiary. A large wheat stack, a malt-house, two barns, and three houses, were all in flames; and the suspicion was, that it was intended to burn down the whole village. The gentlemen of the district took the alarm, and were on the alert, not only to extinguish the fires, but to discover the incendiary; and Bishop, the Bow Street officer, being at Wareham, which is seven miles distant, with a view to discover the robber or robbers who broke open the house of Mr. Thomas, and stole a considerable sum, was sent for to Bere. He arrived immediately, and set about endeavouring to extinguish the fires, in which he was materially assisted by a man, who, from his language and conduct, Bishop suspected was concerned in the crime; his suspicions proved correct, for, upon an investigation as to the commencement of the fires, the man was taken into custody, and being examined before a magistrate, the evidence was sufficient to commit him to Dorchester prison on a charge of setting fire to the wheat stack. Another man of the name of Hewitt was admitted an evidence. The principal part of the property set fire to belonged to a gentleman of the name of Burges.

July 1.—We have inserted some further details of the execution, and written repentant confession of the five men executed on Friday at Ely. They acknowledged the justice of their sentence, and they hoped that their fate would be a warning to others against the commission

of similar crimes. We trust it will, but we are sorry to find from the Bath Paper which we received this morning, that some disturbances broke out at Frome on Saturday evening, which rendered it necessary to read the Riot Act, *and call in the military*—Tranquillity was restored yesterday. The folly of attempting to draw a remedy for distress from the destruction of property; of seeking relief for unemployed hands, by the ruin of those who have the prospect of being in time able to employ them, would seem so obvious, that one can scarcely conceive how it is possible for reflecting creatures to be guilty of it. Government and the Magistrates will do their duty; but we shall be glad to find their efforts seconded by *the admonitions of the Clergy from the pulpit*.

Since writing the above, we find that Government received this morning accounts both from Frome and Loughborough. At the former place an immense mob assembled, and *repulsed the Yeomanry Cavalry*, wounding the Commanding Officer, and two or three others, but were at last dispersed by them and a *party of the Enniskillen Dragoons*. At Loughborough, frames have been broken to a considerable amount.

Execution of the Rioters at Ely.—*Ely, Friday Noon.*—At nine o'clock this morning, the Ordinary (the Rev. Mr. Griffith) performed his last religious offices in the gaol with the prisoners under sentence of death, and about half an hour after, the great bell of St. Mary's tolled the signal, when John Dennis, George Crow, William Beamis, the elder, Thomas South, the younger, and Isaac Harley, were brought out with white caps on their heads, tied with black ribbands, and ascended a cart with elevated seats on each side, covered with black cloth, to be conveyed to the usual place of execution. Several of the Magistrates attended in person, accompanied by not less than three hundred of the most respectable inhabitants of the Isle on horseback, with white wands. All the peace officers with additional ones sworn in special

on the occasion, headed by Mr. Edward, and three other Chief Constables, with their staffs of office covered with black crape, forming a large body, preceded and followed the melancholy procession, which was conducted *without the necessity of any military aid.*

The unhappy sufferers demonstrated the most sincere contrition, and signed an acknowledgment of the justice of their sentence, which they gave to the Ordinary before they left the prison, hoping that their fate would *prove an example to the country*, and deter others from the perpetration of such crimes for which they were about to die, and particularly their confederates, who had so mercifully escaped being made partakers in their sufferings.

The procession reached the place of execution about eleven o'clock, where a platform was erected, with a drop, which they ascended. The spectacle was awful, and impressing on the surrounding multitude. When they reached the platform, they knelt down severally, and prayed fervently for a considerable time; the Ordinary then went up to them and assisted them in their last devotions; after this, John Dennis addressed the spectators, and declared that they all confessed the crimes for which they were about to suffer; he then, with a loud voice, said, "he hoped all who heard him would take example by their fate, and particularly exhorted them to shun drunkenness, whoredom, and sabbath-breaking, which had brought them all to that untimely end." The whole then prayed again for some time, when, on a signal given, the drop fell, and they were launched into eternity almost without a struggle.

After hanging the usual time, the bodies were put in coffins, and given to their respective friends for interment, in St. Mary's Church-yard to-morrow.

The following is an authentic copy of their voluntary confession:—

"We, your poor unfortunate suffering fellow creatures, beg leave to present the public with this our last dying acknowledgment of the justice of that sentence, which has condemned us to die for the violent outrages we have committed, and hope it will be a warning to all who may see, or hear of us, to avoid the like course. We acknowledge and confess our sins in general, and we most sincerely beg of God to pardon our sins;

fervently hoping and trusting that God Almighty will, for the sake of the all-atoning merits of the Redeemer, receive our precious and immortal souls into his favour, though we have delayed their interests to this late hour; most earnestly entreating that the Almighty may grant us all our sufferings in this world, and none in the next. We most sincerely warn you all to avoid those sins, which have been the cause of bringing us here.

"By all means avoid irreligion and vice of every kind, particularly that of swearing, drunkenness, Sabbath-breaking, and that of a shameful neglect of the means of grace, the only means through the merit of Christ, of our soul's salvation. We sincerely recommend to you, that you attend the public worship of God, particularly on the Lord's-day, and most sincerely pray that all our friends and relations will not put off their repentance to a death-bed, lest that God, whom they have neglected to serve while in health and strength, should say unto them at last, as he does to every neglecter of salvation—'Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hands, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity, and mock when your fear cometh.'

"JOHN DENNIS:

"W. BEAMIS.

"The Marks of {
"THOMAS SOUTH. X
"GEORGE CROW. X
"ISAAC HARLEY. X"

In the presence of BENJ. BARLOW, Goalster.

A true copy,

H. B. DUDLEY,

HENRY LAW,

Acting Magistrates for the Isle of Ely.

June 28, 1816.

On Thursday last, during market time, this town was in a small degree disturbed by the arrival of two or three bodies of colliers, dragging waggon loads of coal, and requesting relief: they called at the public office, where the magistrates were sitting, and showed them their petition, which was signed by a magistrate of Dudley. The colliers conducted themselves with great propriety, *and were very peaceable in their conduct; they proceeded through the town on their route towards Oxford, &c.—(Birmingham Paper.)*

July 3.—The laborious Session of Parliament was closed yesterday with a speech from the Prince Regent, which, touching

upon our external and internal situation, conveys the gratifying assurance that "Peace, so essential to the interests of all the nations of the world," is likely to continue; and trusts that the distress which the circumstances of the country, at the close of so long a war, have unavoidably entailed, will be but temporary. His Royal Highness therefore relies with perfect confidence on the public spirit and fortitude of the people in sustaining these difficulties. And here it may not be irrelevant to state, that this distress is *not confined to Great Britain alone*, that it extends to every part of Europe and to America. It is not that the Prussian trade, that the Mediterranean trade, that the American trade, that the intercourse in any particular direction is bad, but that *commerce* in all countries, in all situations, in all forms, and of all descriptions, is *unproductive*. "It would seem," says a cotemporary, "as if the ordinary appetites and necessities of mankind, which constitute the vital principles of commerce, were, from some moral or physical resolution, no longer to repay the ingenuity, and reward the industry, of the mechanic and the merchant."

But the real cause is the same in all countries—it is the *long, sanguinary, and exhausting war*. It has wearied and wasted *all nations*, and immediate recovery from this state of exhaustion is not possible. But the recovery is certain, and of the pressure which we now labour under, *strong motives for a patient endurance* ought to be derived from the *consideration of the miseries from which we have escaped*—and the grounds we have laid for *permanent security and repose*. It was, therefore, with satisfaction we heard the Speaker of the House of Commons assume a tone of congratulation and confidence well befitting his high situation and the Commons of England. He well described the counsels and the measures, bold, provident and compre-

hensive, which had re-established the tranquility of Europe upon the basis of legitimate Government. And he gave its true character to the policy by which the Allied Powers have been influenced in their treatment of France. They might have dismembered her; but they adopted only such measures as were necessary to protect the world from the renewal of its former sufferings. This was a policy to which no one will deny the epithet of generous, and we trust and believe France will justify the other epithet applied by the Speaker, that it was wise.

Into any very detailed and particular review of the late Session it is not our purpose to enter. But the people, now left to exercise their own judgment, unbiassed by the clamours of the factious, and by the exaggerations and misrepresentations of a party who hope to disguise their selfish views under the mask and garb of patriotism; the people, in contemplating the difficulties under which Ministers have been placed in this passage, delicate at all times, but infinitely more so at present, from a state of universal war to a state of peace, will acknowledge that no men could have acted with more anxiety for the real welfare of the country than the present Ministers. A cotemporary asks, whether this anxiety was proved by their proposal of a continuation of the Property Tax for two years at half its rate? To this question we reply by another—Whether they could have acted from any other than a conscientious belief that it would have been the means of paying off the arrears of the war more speedily? A majority of the House were against the measure, and thus a premium or bonus has been granted upon emigration, of which thousands have not failed to avail themselves. The miser and the absentee may congratulate themselves: but it yet remains to be proved whether the people at large will have the same cause.

To the measures adopted for affording relief to the agricultural interests—to the efforts to improve the condition of the people—the arrangements respecting the Civil List, and the consolidations of the revenues of both portions of the United Kingdom, too much praise cannot be given. We have one serious fault, however, to find with Ministers, and that is, their not having sufficiently exposed the cant and hollow pretensions of their opponents. They treated them with too much lenity and forbearance. They should have never suffered the public to lose sight of this fact, that it is the Party which had opposed every one of those measures by which the war was carried on with such glory, and peace concluded with such honour—the Party by which our illustrious Hero was calumniated—his efforts sneered at—his talents decried, and every thing done to make him dissatisfied and disgusted—a party, whose censure of the Duke of Wellington proceeded *pari passu* with their praises of Bonaparte. For him their most enthusiastic admiration, their most glowing eulogies, were reserved. He concentrated all the qualities of all the great men that ever existed. These eulogies, which then excited our disgust and indignation, now create only laughter and contempt. Here is a precious specimen in a speech of Lord Grey's (11th April, 1809)—“He (Bonaparte) has all the opposite qualities of Fabius and Marcellus, whether you consider the country in which he acts, the people with whom he has to contend, or the means by which he is to subdue them. He rivals Hannibal in the application of the means, and is exempt from his only fault, that of not improving by past experience.”—Bravo! My Lord!

These things, these unpatriotic, un-British Bonaparte sentiments and speeches should never be forgotten, whenever the Party pretend to talk of their attachment

to the country and their regard for the people—*Their* regard, forsooth!

July 4.—No attempt has been made to renew the disturbance at Frome. The report of the rioters having approached the factory of Messrs. Sheppard is wholly untrue; they were not near the spot. The Bath troop of cavalry, which, in consequence of the above disturbance, had paraded each day, in readiness to act, was on Tuesday released by Captain King from further attendance.—*Lieutenant-Colonel Wickham's wound is much better; the eye is in no danger; the cheek has been much bruised and cut, but all is likely to be soon well. He attended the muster of the squadron yesterday morning. Seventeen of the cavalry were wounded.*

Having for the last three days heard nothing further of the singular expedition of the Colliers from Bilston, drawing three waggons with coals, we had hoped that they had been well advised enough to give up their intentions. However, it is said that one of them, which passed through Birmingham last Thursday, reached Nettlebed, about five miles from Henly-upon-Thames, yesterday, about three o'clock. The number of the men employed in this mode of conveying, as they state, at once a present and a Petition to the Prince Regent amounts to forty-one. They all behaved very peaceably, but expressed their determination to proceed Carlton-House and present the coals and the petition together to his Royal Highness. They declared that they were to be joined before their entrance into London by their comrades who drew the two other waggons.

July 5.—*Destructive Fire.*—Extract of a letter:—“A fire broke out on Saturday last in the premises of Mr. Gooch, son of the Member of Parliament of that name, at Milford, near Godalming, in Surry, which is now confidently attributed to some incendiaries. About half

past twelve o'clock at noon the fire was discovered to proceed from the out-houses and barns of Mr. Gooch, and post-horses were instantly put in requisition to convey engines from Guildford and the surrounding neighbourhood. In consequence, however, of the necessary delay, and the scanty supply of water, the fire spread furiously, and the whole of the out-houses, barns, stables, with the whole of the corn, hay, straw, &c. &c. were consumed in the space of about two hours and a half. There was a thrashing machine upon the premises, and this, it is supposed, may have induced some misguided persons to commit the outrage in question. A reward of 500*l.* is offered for the apprehension of the offenders.

We stated yesterday, that one body of the colliers, with the waggon of coals, from Staffordshire, had reached Nettlebed, near Henley. Report had mentioned two, nay three, other bodies each with a waggon. One of them proceeded by the road that leads to London through St. Alban's. They reached that place, we understand, on Tuesday evening. The *Home Department* had very properly taken the necessary steps, and had sent down *Magistrates* to each of the three roads by which the colliers might approach the capital. Sir Nathaniel Conant was dispatched to the St. Alban's road. The men were found reposing on or about their waggon. The *Magistrates* stated to them the impropriety of the step they had either taken of their own accord or by the advice of others—that this was not the mode to obtain relief—that it rather tended to prevent the accomplishment of their object, because it *might lead to a breach of the peace*. The colliers listened with much interest and attention to the remonstrances of the *Magistrate*. It had not struck them, they said, in the light in which he had placed it. They confessed that they had *been ill-advised*, and evinced a readiness to return immediately to their

homes. In consequence of this declaration, the *Magistrate purchased the coals* of them, which were left to be distributed to the poor, and gave each man as much money as would carry him back to his home.

Another waggon with a party of colliers, the one which had come by way of Henley, was met by the *Magistrate* at Maidenhead. The same representations were made to the men, and with the *same success as at St. Alban's*. The coals were bought and the men agreeing to return home, *received sufficient to carry them thither*.

The *Magistrate* who had been sent on the Uxbridge road has not been able to find any party on that road, and therefore it is believed that the only ones were the party that came by St. Alban's, and the party that came by the Oxford road.

This result is *very satisfactory*; and the mild, yet firm and *judicious manner* in which the *Home Department* has acted, *deserves every praise*. We wish we could say the same of the different *corporate towns* and *Magistracies* through which these poor men have passed from Staffordshire. Is it not *inconceivable* that, however these Towns and Magistracies might admit and deplore the distress of these colliers, they did not see and feel at once, that the measure was most *unconstitutional*—that the Throne is not to be approached by organised bodies in the manner adopted by the colliers for the purpose of presenting petitions for redress. What was done at St. Alban's and Maidenhead, might have been done at any Corporate Town before they had got thus far. This is evident from the willingness the men expressed to return home, as soon as the *proper remonstrances* were made by the *Magistrates* sent by the *Home Department*. The effects of this supineness has been, we find, from the Birmingham Paper received this morning, to encourage other bodies of colliers to imi-

tate the example of those who are now returning home. "Several *more waggons* with coals (says the Paper) have entered this town, soliciting relief." Other colliers, instead of taking the direction of the capital have proceeded a different route. "On Friday, (says the same Birmingham paper) a body of colliers passed through Wolverhampton on their way to *Liverpool*, dragging a waggon of coals, and soliciting relief."

It is probable that the men who are now homeward-bound from St. Alban's and Maidenhead, will meet with other colliers who may be on the road, *and induce them to return home*. The men who are so ill-advised as to take these steps, should be told, that the tendency of such conduct is to produce disturbance, and in the end to involve them in danger and punishment. Hot-headed, evil-minded persons get among them, inflame their passions, invite drunkenness, and thus drag them on to acts which, as in the case of the Ely rioters, bring them to ruin. Against such *hot heads* and *bad hearts*, and against *the publications they recommend and circulate*, we would more particularly caution the poorer classes at the present moment. Mischief, we fear, is daily working *by means of these publications*. They live themselves by keeping alive the lowest and most *levelling principles* in the minds of the poorer orders who read them. They teach that every man in office is a tyrant, and every man out of it a slave; that every distress to which agriculture or commerce is subject is to be attributed to the *knavery of our rulers*. Whether we are at war or at peace, whether corn be dear or cheap, the resentment of the suffering parties is turned against those above them. The most sacred principles of the Constitution are sneered at, the worst principles of republicanism advocated; and, under various pretences of reform, economy, and public right, it is their constant aim to alie-

nate the affections of the people from the Government. In our manufactories, and among the citizens of large towns these effects *become daily, we fear, more conspicuous*. The system of Luddism was impelled and promoted by *these publications*, the proceedings of the *populace in Kent* evidently proceeded from the same cause; and a *strong bias among the lower orders*, in many places, to a tumultuous and *destructive democracy, has already been given*. These are considerations of deep concern to every man, whatever his political opinions may be, and they ought so to moderate his political feelings as to keep him in a state of mind *cool enough to contemplate consequences*. Let us have *free*, but not *mischievous, irritating* discussion; let the public be *instructed*, but let them not be *inflamed*.—Surely we have had *experience* enough in the present day, that the clamorous cry of *liberty* is often her *funeral knell*.

Detachments from the 55th regiment of foot have been sent to, and are now quartered at Newport and Caerleon, *in consequence*, it is conjectured, of *meetings held by the people* employed in the works at Merthyr and its neighbourhood, whose situation, resulting from the state of the Iron and Coal Trades, is become distressed. *Troops of cavalry* are sent also to *Abergavenny and Brecon*, to prevent or *crush attempts at violence or disorder*.—(*Bristol Paper*.)

July 6.—THE COLLIERS.—(Extract of a letter from Maidenhead, six o'clock, July 5.)—Yesterday morning (Thursday), Mr. Birnie, from Bow-Street, accompanied by two officers, arrived at the Sun Inn here, and after consulting with Sir Wm. Hearn, and other Magistrates of this place, swore in several extra constables, and as a matter of precaution, *ordered a party of military to be under arms*. This done, they sent forward the officers from Bow-Street, to meet the waggon that was approaching from Henley; it was met on

Maidenhead Thicket, about two miles from hence, and the crowd attending it, on being informed that they would not be permitted to proceed, instantly stopped, and conducted themselves with the greatest propriety. The waggon, which was 2 ton, 6 cwt. and 12lb. was drawn by 41 men: and a leader or overseer rode on horseback, and directed the whole. As soon as it was understood by the magistrates that the party wished to act in the way most agreeable to the lawful authorities, *a negociation was entered into*, and the coals were permitted to be brought in here by four of the party and their leader, and were deposited with Wm. Pyne, Esq. who will distribute them amongst the poor of Maidenhead. The coals were drawn to this place by horses sent out on purpose; the men refused to sell the coals, but gave them up, as requested, to Mr. Pyne, *and received a very handsome present indeed*. Mr. Birnie, Sir. Wm. Hearn, Mr. Pyne, &c. went out and *negociated*. The poor fellows were perfectly satisfied, but refused to go until the Magistrates signed a paper that they had conducted themselves properly. At Henley, the day before yesterday, they behaved so well, that the Mayor permitted them to go wherever they pleased in the town, and they had upwards of 40*l.* given to them at that place. They left Bilston with three waggons in company, and parted at Oxford. One waggon was to be at Beaconsfield last night, and the other at St. Alban's, where they would, it is supposed, be met in the same way those were met with here, at about one mile from this place, for it appears they came this side Maidenhead Thicket. They were twenty minutes in drawing the waggon up Henley-Hill. *The extraordinary nature of these occurrences occasioned much bustle here yesterday, but no disturbance.*

Our accounts this morning from Frome state, that every thing has remained tranquil during the week.

From Leicestershire, we learn, that through the activity of the Magistrates, and of the officers sent down from London, two men were on Thursday brought to Leicester gaol, on suspicion of being concerned in the attack upon Mr. Heathcote's manufactory at Loughborough. Another man is in custody at Loughborough—and one letter says, that two of the gang have impeached their accomplices. When they entered the manufactory, they had their faces blacked, and each was armed with a bayonet (hung through the button-hole of the coat), a pistol, and a hatchet. Their Captain, as they called him, was mounted on a fine horse, and leaped over the toll-gate going to Ashby de la Zouch. The poor watchman whom they shot in the neck, has had the ball extracted, and is said to be out of danger. By the destruction of this manufactory, above 300 hands are thrown out of employment.

We are surprised to hear, that the coals which the colliers were drawing were *given them by the manager of a great colliery, for the purpose of their being drawn to London*. They had a painted board, too, *containing a Magistrate's certificate in their favour*. The Magistrates sent to meet the party that came by the Oxford road were Messrs. Birnie and Baker. They represented to the men the danger and illegality of their conduct.—The men replied, that it had not struck them in that light, and they regretted that they had not been stopped sooner. Our regret is accompanied with surprise, that the Magistrates in any corporate town through which they passed did not make the same remonstrances to them as the London Magistrates.

The colliers contradicted the rumour that they had begged money on their way, which they declared was false. This, they said, was contradicted by their placard, which was inscribed, "Willing to work, but none of us will beg." They

admitted, however, that they had *received 60l. on their way*, but this they said was the amount of voluntary donations, totally unsolicited by them. At Henley they accepted nothing. The coals, which amounted to about three tons, were purchased by the Magistrates, and distributed among the poor of Maidenhead. *The Magistrates then received the placards, and gave them a sum of money to carry them home.*

July 8.—The example set by the colliers of Bilston, and the manner in which they were suffered to pass through the different towns without the least interruption, has, as we supposed it would, been imitated by other parties. A Leicester paper of Saturday last says, that “on Thursday 45 men, connected with “iron and coal trades, passed through “this town, *yoked to a waggon*, loaded “with coals, which we understand they “intend *drawing* to London, as a present “to the PRINCE REGENT. The following inscription was placed upon each “side of the waggon:—

“Tole End Colliery, Tipton, Staffordshire,
“Take pity on our children crying for bread.
“We would rather work than be forced for to beg.
“God restore Commerce to our country.”

“We understand, that a waggon drawn in the same way, passed through Lutterworth, the day before; as did also two more through Coventry.”

“The distress” (says a respectable Birmingham Paper) “occasioned by so many iron-works and collieries having ceased work, has induced a great number of men, who are out of employment, to resort to various improper methods of obtaining relief; and this town and neighbourhood are considerably inconvenienced by groups of these men and boys petitioning for assistance. Wherever there is real distress, it is to the honour of this country that it meets with commiseration and relief, by proper persons appointed by law: vagrancy cannot, nor

will it be permitted. If one parish is unable to give all the relief required, it must be assisted by the adjoining ones. Birmingham has distress of her own to relieve, without being called upon by persons of whom the inhabitants know nothing. Many of these people are doubtless objects of charity, but it is not improbable that many impostors take advantage of the circumstance, and clothe themselves in the garb of colliers, to awaken the compassion or excite the fears of unprotected females,” &c.

Since the outrage at Loughborough, the greatest activity has been used in tracing out the particulars, and in endeavouring to discover the author. After the Ludites had completed the work of frame-breaking, the chief of them said, “Now men, if you can tell us of any machines that are working under price, if it be one or two hundred miles off, we will go and break them.” Receiving a negative to this question, they directly quitted the factory, enjoining the men belonging to it, with terrible threats, not to stir for the space of ten minutes. They not only destroyed the machines, but even the lace that happened to be on the respective rollers was mostly hacked to pieces. It seemed a particular maxim with them, to deter as much as possible any one from having a glimpse of their proceedings. Independently of the supposed number of nearly thirty, who were actively concerned in committing these excesses in the interior of the factory, it is confidently believed that there were not less than fifty or sixty others stationed on the outside, in the manner of sentinels or patrols, in every direction, and even along the Mill-street, to within a few yards of the Market-place of Loughborough. Some of these patrols called aloud, warning the inhabitants to keep in their beds, and not to exhibit any lights; in disobedience of which, one person who endeavoured to go out amongst them had eight panes

directly broken in one of his windows, and was threatened with death if he did not keep within. About a dozen panes were also broken in the windows of the factory.

The Magistrates of the division have almost incessantly been since occupied in investigating the affair. The town crier even went round with his bell on Sunday week warning the innkeepers against keeping their houses open later than nine o'clock in the evening. Six men have, at different intervals, been taken up on suspicion, one of whom has since been set at liberty; three remain in custody at Loughborough, and the other two were sent under an escort from that town to Leicester. Some implements, supposed to have been used in destroying the machines, have been seized, and are likewise in the possession of the constables employed by the Magistrates in this business. The Magistrates and public officers in Nottingham have also been very active, and many houses in that town have also been searched on the occasion.

There is nothing in the domestic circumstances of the country calculated to excite greater astonishment, than the long continued existence, in the very heart of the kingdom, of that *secret association*, known by the name of *Luddites*, whose destructive operations the utmost vigilance of the Executive has not been able to prevent.

July 9.—Nothing can be more reprehensible than attempts to inflame and irritate at the present moment. It is the duty of all to soothe, not to inflame; and, whilst we deplore the sufferings to which any classes may be exposed, to convince them that no blame is to be imputed to Government; that their sufferings are likely to be temporary, but that they may be rendered permanent by their listening to inflammatory publications, and having recourse to acts of outrage. It is to be presumed that the officers of every parish in the different counties will exert themselves by inquiring into the *real situation* of all who claim relief; and, wherever they are found in positive distress, that they will do all that lies in their power to

alleviate, if they cannot completely relieve it, both by finding them some sort of employment, as well as food. Much might be done by parishes putting their roads into the best possible state of repair; and various employments might be suggested for those poor persons who would prefer the earnings of honest labour, to immediate parish relief. The approaching harvest will find employment for many thousands; but it would be well to mature plans to succeed the harvest, if, unfortunately, the commercial current should not have changed by that time. October and November would be proper months for repairing the roads, and although it would be hard upon the parishes to pay more to the highway rates, yet when the roads were once well repaired and widened, they would find their account in after years. In every possible way employment should be invented for those who, as we have before said, are ready and willing to work.

The Colliers who were stopped at Maidenhead re-passed through Oxford on Friday last, in the most quiet and orderly manner, on their return home to Staffordshire.

A diabolical attempt was made at Crewkerne, Somerset, on Monday night, the 17th ult. to set on fire the stable and barn formerly belonging to Mr. Reader, round which there are nothing but thatched houses. In a loft, full of straw, over the stable, some live coals were deposited in a handful of tow, and these combustibles were covered with some of the straw; the tow was found to have mouldered to blackness, and had even kindled partially, but fortunately the wind was in a contrary direction to the window in which the inflammable materials were put, or the whole building and probably many others might have been destroyed. The streets were patrolled every night by four of the most respectable inhabitants, and every thing now seems perfectly tranquil.

The nine convicts at Ely assizes, whose sentences were mitigated to transportation, were last week conveyed to Newgate, from whence they are to be sent off to Botany Bay by the first vessel that sails.